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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON).

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DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 13, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for 5 minutes.

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THE INTERNET AND THE NEW ECONOMY

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today we are enjoying very good economic growth, and I am so proud this Congress played a role by balancing the budget and cutting taxes for the middle class, boosting our economy. The key part of our economy today is what many call the New Economy, the technology economy.

Let me give my colleagues some statistics that really illustrate the role of

the new economy in American society. Today, over 100 million Americans are using the Internet, and 7 new people are on the Internet every second. Seventy-eight percent of Internet users almost always vote in national, State and local elections, compared with 64 percent of nonInternet users. It took just 5 years for the Internet to reach 50 million users, much faster than when compared to the traditional electronic media. It took television 13 years to reach 50 million and radio 38 years to reach the same audience.

The Internet economy generated an estimated 302 billion U.S. dollars in revenue in 1998, employing 4.8 million workers. More workers are employed in the technology economy than auto and steel and petroleum combined, and the average high technology wage is 77 percent higher than the average private sector wage elsewhere. As I noted earlier, one-third of all new economic growth is generated by the technology economy.

I am proud to say I am from a technology State. I represent the State of Illinois. Illinois ranks fourth in high technology employment. Illinois ranks third in high technology exports, so Illinois is clearly a technology State. I have had the opportunity many times to talk with friends and neighbors who are involved in the new economy, and we talk about who has access to the Internet. Over 100 million Americans have access to the Internet, are on line, and 7 new Americans go on line for the first time every second. So clearly there is a great opportunity, not only for information, but also for employment and moving up the economic ladder.

They tell me that it seems that the higher the income level of the family, the more likely that they are on line. If a family has an income of \$75,000 or more, they are 20 times more likely than a family with a lesser income to have Internet access or a computer at

home. When we ask the question of why are they less likely to have Internet access or computers at home, they tell us that it is because of the cost. They would like to have a computer at home for their children to be able to do their school work, they would like their children to have access to the Internet so that they can access the Library of Congress to do their school papers, but they do not feel they can afford it.

So clearly the cost of Internet access creates what some call the digital divide, but clearly as well is the need for an agenda to provide digital opportunity.

When we look at the costs, I believe we have an important choice to make as we talk about the information superhighway and giving every American access to the information superhighway. We have to make a choice, and that choice is do we want the information superhighway to be a tollway or a freeway. Well, clearly, if we want to address the concern that lower and moderate income families have, and that is that cost is the chief barrier, we need to work to make sure that the Internet, the information superhighway, is a freeway.

So many have pointed out that our new economy is growing because of a tax-free, regulation-free, trade barrier-free climate, but we need to move forward again to create more initiatives to continue to work to eliminate the toll booths on the information highway.

I was proud just a few weeks ago to introduce legislation we call the DATA Act, legislation designed to help lower and moderate-income families go on line, to become part of the new economy. Educators back home in the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs that I represent, they tell me that they notice a difference in children who have a computer and Internet access in the home versus those who do

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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not, their ability to compete and do their homework.

I am proud to say that some major employers in the Illinois area, as well as across this country, have stepped forward to help solve that so-called digital divide by providing computers and Internet access as a basic employee benefit. What that means is the employees of Ford Motor Company, American Airlines, Delta Airlines and Intel, everyone from the janitor, the laborer, the assembly line worker, the flight attendant, the baggage handler, all the way up through middle management to senior management, will now have computers and Internet access in their homes for their kids to do their school work. It is a wonderful initiative by the private sector and I salute them and congratulate them. As a result of that, 600,000 American working families will have computers and Internet access at home, many who before never could afford it. That is a great thing.

Many in the Fortune 100 are looking to and following the lead of these 4 great companies, but their tax lawyers tell them that if they do, that it will be treated as a taxable employee benefit, meaning the employee will be taxed. I say to my colleagues, let us remove that toll booth. Let us ensure that computers and Internet access as an employee benefit are not taxed, that it is a tax-free employee benefit treated the same as an employer's contribution to a pension or an employer's contribution to health care.

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COMPACT-IMPACT FUNDING FOR GUAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of vital concern to the people of Guam and this concerns Compact-Impact Aid, which is part of the Interior Appropriations bill which will be brought to the floor today.

Compact-Impact Aid is the assistance that is annually given to the people of Guam as compensation for social and educational costs for the unrestricted migration of 3 newly-created independent States in the Central Pacific, the Compact States of the Republic of the Marshalls, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The President's budget for fiscal year 2001 proposes that Guam receive an increase of \$5.42 million for Compact-Impact funding in the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' budget, which would bring Guam's total to \$10 billion annually. Last year, Guam received a total of \$7.58 million, a 3.5 increase from previous years. From fiscal year 1996 to 1999, Guam received \$4.58 million annually. Annual actual Compact-Impact costs for all of the so-

cial and educational costs to the government of Guam as a result of this free and unrestricted migration are actually estimated to be between \$15 million to \$20 million annually.

Unfortunately, this year's Interior Appropriations provides only \$4.58 million to Guam because of budgetary scoring problems that the House Committee on Appropriations had with the way in which the administration had identified the source of funding within the Office of Insular Affairs. This is a very serious issue which hopefully will be resolved in the context also of current renegotiations of these Compacts between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

I simply want to emphasize that Compact-Impact Aid has been a Federal responsibility since 1986 which has only recently been addressed for Guam, and 1986 was the year that these Compacts went into effect. I understand that the House Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific will be holding an oversight hearing later on this month, and I certainly hope, and I plan to raise the issues of migration of FAS citizens at this important hearing.

The issue of Compact-Impact Aid is not new. Funding authority for Compact-Impact assistance to Guam stems from the 1986 law which governs the relationship between the United States and these newly-created nations. Section 104(3)6 pertains to impact costs and states: "There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1985 such sums as may be necessary to cover the costs, if any incurred, by the State of Hawaii, the territories of Guam and American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands resulting from any increased demands placed on educational and social services by immigrants from the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia."

Since Guam is clearly the most economically developed island in the central Pacific and because of its geographical proximity, the vast majority of these immigrants come to Guam. Under the Compact Agreement, it also states that "It was not the intent of the Congress to cause any adverse consequences for the U.S. territories and commonwealths or the State of Hawaii."

It also states that if any adverse consequences occur, Congress will act sympathetically and expeditiously to redress these adverse consequences.

We are now in the 15th year of the implementation of these contracts, and while I appreciate all of the sympathy that Congress could perhaps give on this issue, I certainly expect more expeditious action, particularly in the reimbursement of costs that are incurred directly by the taxpayers of Guam.

Guam's unemployment rate is currently over 15 percent, and from mid 1997 to mid 1998, the total of Compact

migrants to Guam was over 7,000. This is a population of 140,000, and this exceeds the numbers that are going to Hawaii and other areas.

This is not the same as problems normally referred to in addressing the impact of immigrant issues in the 50 States. The obligation to Guam is clear in the law; the obligation is written into the treaties of free association between these new countries and the United States, and the obligation to the people of Guam is clear. I am hopeful that we will be able to work on this through the process of conferencing, and we are grateful for the fact that this still remains a high priority for the Clinton administration.

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STOP TB NOW ACT FOR EFFECTIVE TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, tuberculosis is the greatest infectious killer of adults worldwide. It is the biggest killer of young women. Tuberculosis kills 2 million people each year, 1 percent around the world every 15 seconds. Tuberculosis hit an all-time high in 1999 with 8 million new cases, 95 percent of them in the developing world.

We have a small window of opportunity during which stopping tuberculosis is very cost-effective. The costs of Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course, so-called DOTS, can be as little as \$20, that is \$20 to save a life. If we wait, if we go too slowly, so much drug-resistant TB will emerge that it will cost billions of dollars to control with little guarantee of success. Multi-drug resistant TB is more than 100 times more expensive to cure than nondrug resistant TB.

I have introduced the Stop TB Now Act with the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) in an effort to control tuberculosis. The bill authorizes \$100 million to USAID for tuberculosis control in high incidence countries, mostly using the Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course, so-called DOTS. It calls on USAID to collaborate its efforts with CDC, the World Health Organization, the National Institutes of Health and other organizations with tuberculosis expertise. The measure provides funding for combating Multi-Drug Resistant TB, which is spreading at an alarming rate.

Multi-drug resistant TB has been identified on every continent. According to the World Health Organization, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis ultimately threatens to return TB control to the preantibiotic era where no cure for TB was available. An effective DOTS cure program can prevent the development of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.